

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 314

By Ford

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Johnson Lodge No. 274 of the Free and Accepted Masons of Fall Branch on the celebration of its 151st anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary institutions that, through an abiding commitment to excellence, have contributed greatly to this State for many years; and

WHEREAS, Johnson Lodge No. 274 of the Free and Accepted Masons, located in Fall Branch, is one such organization, and the members of this historic and celebrated organization, who have dedicated their time and energies to serving the good people of Tennessee, are deserving of acclaim; and

WHEREAS, in 1858, the Masons of Washington County petitioned the Grand Lodge of Tennessee for permission to form a Masonic Lodge in the village of Fall Branch; the Lodge operated under dispensation from the Grand Lodge during 1859, before receiving its charter in 1860; and

WHEREAS, Jacob Hamilton was selected as the first Worshipful Master, a position in which he served with the utmost acumen and probity for several years; E. S. Poindexter was Senior Warden and J. W. Couch was Junior Warden; and

WHEREAS, in 1863, everything at the Lodge was lost at the hands of burglars, and the members did not meet again until the spring of 1865; and

WHEREAS, later, at a meeting of the Grand Lodge, a new charter was granted in lieu of the one that was lost and work was authorized to continue; and

WHEREAS, in January of 1868, a fire broke out in the Lodge Room and all its contents were destroyed; the Grand Master granted another warrant to work and in October of 1868, at the Grand Lodge meeting, another charter was granted to Johnson Lodge No. 274; and

WHEREAS, the lodge was built in 1869 and dedicated by the most Worshipful Grand Master, J. W. Paxton in 1870; a procession was formed, and he marched with music to the stand where the Lodge Hall was most seemly dedicated; and

WHEREAS, the benevolent tradition of Johnson Lodge No. 274 was established in its early years and the membership of this venerable institution takes great pride in their long and distinguished history of charity and community service; and

WHEREAS, the members of Johnson Lodge No. 274 of the Free and Accepted Masons in Fall Branch have dedicated themselves to laudable acts that have assisted countless individuals and have made a positive impact on their community and on the State as a whole, and they should be formally recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the members of this most distinguished Masonic Lodge on the celebration of its 151st anniversary and we thank the members of Johnson Lodge No. 274 of the Free and Accepted Masons in Fall Branch, both past and present, for their meritorious service to the good people of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.